

Abstract

The invention relates to a vacuum unit for a device used to structure the surface of a workpiece (24), in particular a plate, such as e.g. a flexographic printing block, by means of radiation, in particular laser radiation, the workpiece being a cylinder or a plate that is located on a cylinder during the engraving process. Said unit comprises a hood (11) that covers an interaction zone between the radiation and the surface of the workpiece and that has a vacuum channel (12), whose inlet (15) lies opposite the surface of the workpiece in the operating position of the hood (11) and which can be connected to a vacuum line (38). The aim of the invention is to prevent the abraded and decomposition products that form during the machining of cylindrical workpieces, such as e.g. aerosols, vapour, fumes or gases from being released into the environment. To achieve this, the unit is also equipped with a C-shaped cover ring (13), which comprises two ends that follow the circumference of the workpiece and are located at a distance from one another and which has a substantially U-shaped cross-section with two opposing lateral walls (18), which are interconnected by a base wall (19). The hood (11) is located between the two ends of the cover ring (13).